

Bioethics



Professor: Jonathan Anomaly, anomaly@upenn.edu
Class meets: July 2 – August 7: Mon-Thurs 4:30 – 6:30pm
Office Hours: every day one hour before class (312 Cohen Hall)

Course description

The goal of this class is to explore moral issues that arise in the context of medicine. These include whether abortion or euthanasia are justifiable, and whether we should manipulate our genes to improve ourselves and our children.

Required book

Allen Buchanan, *Better than Human?* (Cambridge Press, 2011). All other readings on Blackboard.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Any more than three unexcused absences will lower your grade.

Requirements

Your grade will be determined by three take-home exams, each worth one third of your grade. Exams will consist of short essays on topics and readings covered in class. You will be graded on the quality of your arguments, clarity of writing, and your ability to clearly explain the views of the authors we read for class. You will not be graded on the political position you defend.

I. BIRTH

ABORTION

Judith Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"

Don Marquis, "Why Abortion is Immoral"

Marry Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion"

Bonnie Steinbock, "The Morality of Killing Human Embryos"

Steven Levitt, "Abortion and Crime"

II. GENES

GENETIC THERAPY and GENETIC ENHANCEMENT

David Resnik, "The moral significance of the Therapy-Enhancement distinction"

Michael Sandel, "The Case against Perfection"

Allen Buchanan, *Better than Human*

Philosophy Bites Podcasts: Michael Sandel on [Genetic Enhancement in Sports](#), Allen Buchanan on [Biomedical enhancement](#), Julian Savulescu on [Designer Babies](#)

III. DEATH

EUTHANASIA

Tom Beauchamp, "Justifying Physician Assisted Deaths"

Brad Hooker, "Rule Utilitarianism and Euthanasia"

David Velleman, "Against the Right to Die"

John Hardwig, "Dying at the Right Time"

Planet Money Podcast: [The Town Where Everyone Talks about Death](#)

IV. MARKETS

ANTIMICROBIAL DRUGS

Stuart Levy, "The Challenge of Antibiotic Resistance"

In-class video: The Evolutionary Arms Race

Jonathan Anomaly, "Ethics, Antibiotics, and Public Policy"

Julia Nefsky, "Consumer Choice and Collective Impact"

RECREATIONAL DRUGS

Michael Huemer, "America's Unjust Drug War"

Peter DeMarneffe, "Against the Legalization of Drugs"

C. Hughes and A. Stevens, "What Can we learn from Portuguese Drug Decriminalization?"

Jessica Flanigan, "Three Arguments Against Prescription Requirements"

VACCINES

James Colgrove, "The Ethics and Politics of Compulsory HPV Vaccination"

Jessica Flanigan, "A Defense of Compulsory Vaccination"

ORGANS

Arthur Caplan, "Organ Transplantation"

Gerald Dworkin, "Of Markets and Morals: The Case for Organ Sales"

HEALTH CARE

Allen Buchanan, "The Right to a Decent Minimum"

Milton Friedman, "How to Cure Health Care"

Milton Weinstein, "Should physicians be gatekeepers of medical resources?"

V. RESEARCH

PEOPLE

Alison Grady, "Money for Research Participation"

Julian Savulescu, "The Fiction of Undue Inducement"

Anomaly and Savulescu, "Compensation for Cures"

ANIMALS

Peter Singer, "All Animals Are Equal"

Michael Pollan, "An Animal's Place"

In-class video: Death on a Factory Farm

Philosophy Bites Podcast: [Peter Singer on the Human Use of Animals](#)

BDS 509: Applied Game Theory



Professor: Jonathan Anomaly, anomaly@upenn.edu
Teaching Assistant / Professor: Raj Patel, pater@sas.upenn.edu
Zoom link: <https://upenn.zoom.us/j/96556565990>
M,W,F — 1:00-2:15pm — July 1 - Aug 6

Course description

This course covers basic concepts in game theory and applies these concepts to the social sciences. By the end of the course students will know how to identify Nash equilibria and Pareto optima, understand how to diagram simultaneous and sequential games, and be able to explain how different strategies apply to single play games and repeated games. Topics will include why conflict and cooperation occur among organisms with diverse goals and scarce resources, and how pro-social emotions and norms can alter human behavior in ways that facilitate cooperation.

Required Books

Thomas Schelling, *Micromotives and Macrobehavior*

Robert Frank, *Passions within Reason: The Strategic Role of the Emotions*

Grades are determined by one quiz that involves diagramming and analyzing some simple games, and two short exams that involve explaining concepts from the readings.

All articles will be posted on Canvas. You'll need to buy the books. The Encyclopedia entry on game theory is hyperlinked below, or you can find it with a quick internet search.

Reading Schedule

1. Basic Concepts

July 2: Class introduction, basics of game theory

July 5: No class

July 7, 9:

Don Ross, [Game Theory](#)

[§1](#) Philosophical Motivation (all), [§2](#) Basic Elements (end at 2.7: p. 48), [§6](#) Commitment (all)

Watch Game Theory PPE Videos ([click here](#))

Read game theory handouts and do practice problem set (posted with answers on Canvas)
Key concepts: be able to identify the five main games, be able to find Nash Equilibria and Pareto Optima, understand single play vs repeated games, diagram normal form vs extensive form games

July 12:

Quiz (in class)

Schelling, Chapter 3: Models

2. Emergent Orders

July 14:

Schelling, Chapter 4: Sorting and Mixing

Schelling, Chapter 6: Choosing our Children's Genes

July 16:

Gyngell and Douglas, "Stocking the Genetic Supermarket: reproductive choices and collective action problems"

Anomaly, Gyngell, and Savulescu, "Great Minds Think Different: preserving cognitive diversity in an age of gene editing"

3. Repeated Games

July 19:

Axelrod and Hamilton, "The Evolution of Cooperation"

Robert Trivers, "The Evolution of Reciprocal Altruism"

Robert Axelrod, "The Live-and-Let-Live System of Trench Warfare in WW1"

4. Commitment Devices: Incentives, Emotions, and Social Norms

July 21:

Wilson and Wilson, "Survival of the Selfless"

Robert Frank, *Passions within Reason: The Strategic Role of the Emotions*, chapter 1-2

*First exam emailed tonight

July 23: Exam review – open Q&A

July 25: First exam due at 11pm EST (send to anomaly@upenn.edu)

July 26: Frank, chapters 3-4

July 28: Frank, chapters 5-6

July 30: Frank, chapters 10-12

August 2:

Fehr and Gächter, "Altruistic Punishment in Humans"

Abbink, Thrasher, et al, "Peer Punishment Promotes Enforcement of Bad Social Norms"

5. Collective Action

August 4:

Mancur Olson, "The Logic of Collective Action"

Elinor Ostrom, "Collective Action and the Evolution of Social Norms"

*I'll email **final exam** today, **due August 8 (Sunday) at 11pm**

August 6:

Robert Frank et al, "Does Studying Economics Inhibit Cooperation?"

Exam review – open Q&A

Prisoner's Dilemma and Distributive Justice (Duke)
Introduction to Philosophy, Politics and Economics (UNC)



Professor Anomaly, jonathan.anomaly@duke.edu

TAs: Eric Sampson, trae@live.unc.edu, Alex Oprea, alex.oprea@duke.edu

Anomaly Office at Duke: Gross Hall 204-A. Alex and Eric will have office hours at Vondy

Class: M,W: 5:00-5:50, Office Hours: M,W 4-5pm

Course description

This interdisciplinary course provides an overview of some core principles that help us think carefully about the moral and economic dimensions of wealth creation. It also serves as an introductory course for PPE. The goal is to explore how markets work, and under what conditions they create wealth and prosperity. We will also consider when markets *fail* to create wealth or allocate resources well. Along the way, we will think about the role of political institutions in structuring market exchange.

Books

Gerald Gaus, *On Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*. Palgrave Press, 2006.

Anomaly, Brennan, Munger et al, *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

Grades

Game theory quiz worth 10% of your grade, and three non-cumulative essay exams, each worth 30% of your final grade. The essay exams will be taken at home, and will each involve about 5 pages of writing.

Attendance

Any more than three unexcused absences will lower your grade.

Reading Schedule

1. Property

What does private property have to do with wealth creation?

*Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

*John Locke, *Of Property*

*David Hume, *Of Justice and Property*

*David Schmidtz, *The Institution of Property*

Planet Money podcast: How Private Property Transformed China ([click here](#) or subscribe on iTunes)

2. Markets

How do markets work, what do they do well, and when do they function poorly? What does it mean for resources to be allocated *efficiently*?

Market Success: specialization and exchange

*Adam Smith, *Of the Division of Labor*

*Friedrich Hayek, *The Use of Knowledge in Society*

*Leonard Read, *I, Pencil*

Matt Ridley, [When Ideas Have Sex](#) (TED talk)

Market Failure: externalities and public goods

*Tyler Cowen, *Public Goods*

*David Friedman, *Market Failures*

*Jonathan Anomaly, *Public Goods and Government Action*

Jerry Gaus, PPE, chapter 3: *Efficiency*

3. Justice

How should resources be allocated? Can we separate production and distribution? *Should* we? Are efficiency and justice different? Is distributive justice a function of setting up fair rules, or should it be about managing outcomes?

Utilitarianism

*J. S. Mill, *Utilitarianism*

Stanford Encyclopedia - [Consequentialism](#)

Contractualism

*John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*

Stanford Encyclopedia – [Justice as Fairness](#)

Libertarianism

*Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*

Stanford Encyclopedia - [Libertarianism](#)

4. Public Choice

Is it useful to think of politics as an institution for non-market exchange? Exchange between whom? Who are the principals and who are the agents? When markets fail to allocate resources efficiently, or justly, can we expect politicians to improve the outcome? Do we have a theory of government failure akin to the theory of market failure?

Economic principles and political processes

*James Buchanan, *Politics without Romance*

Jerry Gaus, PPE, chapter 6: *Public Choice*

Rationality, ignorance, and rational ignorance

*Anthony Downs, *An Economic Theory of Democracy*

*Michael Huemer, *Why People are Irrational about Politics*

Incentives of Voters and Policymakers

Frederic Bastiat, [That Which is Seen and Not Seen](#) (The Broken Window Fallacy)

*Geoff Brennan and Loren Lomasky, *Is There a Duty to Vote?*

4. Liberty and Paternalism

Do governments agents have the right to limit the self-regarding choices of their citizens? Are government agents likely to have better information and incentives than those whose choices they regulate? If so, under what conditions?

*J. S. Mill, *On Liberty*

*Gerald Dworkin, *Paternalism*

*Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein, *Libertarian Paternalism is not an Oxymoron*

5. Exploitation and Exchange

Are there things that shouldn't be for sale, or things we shouldn't sell at a certain price? What are the consequences – moral and otherwise – of intervening in markets for which demand is inelastic? Are the problems associated with black markets decisive objections to laws that limit voluntary exchange, or might there be good reasons to have them anyway?

Drugs

*Michael Huemer, *America's Unjust Drug War*

*Peter DeMarneffe, *Against the Legalization of Drugs*

Body Parts

*Arthur Caplan, *Organ Transplantation*

*Gerald Dworkin, *Of Markets and Morals: The Case for Organ Sales*

Sweatshops

*Powell and Zwolinski, "The Ethical and Economic Case Against Sweatshops: A Reassessment"

*Coakley and Kates, "The Ethical and Economic Case for Sweatshop Regulation"

Price-Gouging

*Mike Munger, "Can Price-Gouging Laws Prohibit Scarcity?"

*Jeremy Snyder, "What's Wrong with Price Gouging?"

*Matt Zwolinski, "Price-Gouging, Non-Worseness, and Distributive Justice"



PPE Capstone Seminar



Professor: Jonathan Anomaly, jonathan.anomaly@duke.edu
Teaching Assistant: Chris Kennedy: christopher.s.kennedy@duke.edu
Classroom at Duke: Social Sciences 311, Classroom at UNC: Peabody 0216
Office at Duke: Gross Hall 201, Office at UNC: Caldwell 108-a
Office hours: Tues 2-3pm or by apt

Course Description

The capstone seminar is a chance to take some of the core concepts you've learned in previous PPE courses and apply them to specific topics. It is also an opportunity for you to write a concise research paper on a PPE-related topic of your choice. In the first part of the semester, we'll discuss the readings below. In the second part, you will present work in progress and get feedback from your peers. Each student will be assigned a time slot to present a chunk of their research paper, or talk about a book chapter or article that is central to their paper.

Grading and Attendance

- 10% Participation
- 45% Midterm exam (~5 pages)
- 45% Final paper (~15-18 pages)

Attendance is mandatory

All students must abide by the honor code at UNC or Duke

Required Books

- *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

All other required readings are available on Sakai.

Highly recommended for writing research papers:

- Deirdre McCloskey, *Economical Writing*

Week 1 (1/12): COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS and PUBLIC POLICY

*Steven Kelman, "An Ethical Critique of Cost-Benefit Analysis"

*Elizabeth Anderson, "Cost-Benefit Analysis, Safety, and Environmental Quality"

*David Schmitz, "A Place for Cost-Benefit Analysis"

Week 2 (1/19): REGULATION and RENT-SEEKING

Bruce Yandle, "Bootleggers and Baptists"

*Mike Munger, "Rent-Seek and You Will Find"

*James Buchanan, "How can Constitutions Be Designed...?"

Eban Goodstein, "The Political Economy of Environmental Regulation"

Planet Money podcast: Why Taxpayers Pay for Farmer's Insurance ([click here](#))

Week 3 (1/26): LIBERTARIAN PATERNALISM

*Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein, "Libertarian Paternalism is not an Oxymoron"

Mark White, *The Manipulation of Choice* (excerpts)

Week 4 (2/2): EQUALITY

*Kurt Vonnegut, "Harrison Bergeron"

*Harry Frankfurt, "Equality as a Moral Ideal"

*Amartya Sen, "Equality of What?"

Week 5 (2/9): MONEY and HAPPINESS

Ricardh Easterlin, "Will Raising the Incomes of All Increase the Happiness of All?"

Kahneman against Easterlin ([click here](#))

Stevenson and Wolfers against Easterlin ([click here](#))

Will Wilkinson, "In Pursuit of Happiness Research"

Podcasts: Aristotle on Happiness ([click here](#)); Diane Coyl on GDP ([click here](#))

Week 6 (2/16): COLLECTIVE ACTION

*Mancur Olson, "The Logic of Collective Action"

*Elinor Ostrom, "Collective Action and the Evolution of Social Norms"

*Herbert Gintis and Samuel Bowles, "The Evolutionary Basis of Collective Action"

Week 7 (2/23): MORAL LIMITS OF MARKETS

Michael Sandel, "How Markets Crowd Out Morals" (with replies by Gintis and Bowles)

Debra Satz, "The Moral Limits of Markets: The Case of Human Kidneys"

Week 8 (3/1): MARKETS WITHOUT LIMITS

Brennan and Jaworski, "Markets without Symbolic Limits"

*David Friedman, "Sex, Marriage, and Babies"

Week 9 (3/8): SWEATSHOP LABOR

*Powell and Zwolinski on permitting Sweatshop Labor

*Coakley and Cates against Powell and Zwolinski

Take-home essay exam sent out 3/4, due 3/14

Week 10 (3/15): SPRING BREAK

Week 11 (3/22): *Meet to discuss paper ideas.*

Weeks 12-14: Paper presentations

Give a 15-minute presentation on your final paper topic, and give comments on one another's work

Week 15 (4/26): Paper exchange

Paper due: 4/28